



OHIO RAIL DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

1980 West Broad Street, Columbus OH 43223

John R. Kasich, Governor • James G. Bradley, ORDC Chairman

July 31, 2012

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Mr. Daniel R. Elliott, Chairman
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street SW
Washington, DC 20423

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STB Docket No. FD 35654 - Verified Statement of Matthew R. Dietrich, Executive Director, Ohio Rail Development Commission

Dear Chairman Elliott:

My name is Matthew R. Dietrich. I am the Executive Director of the Ohio Rail Development Commission (ORDC) and have served in this capacity since 2007.

The ORDC was formed by the Ohio General Assembly in 1994 to bring together all of the state's non-regulatory rail activities. The ORDC currently administers programs that provide low interest loans and grants for rail-related infrastructure improvements and economic development projects, administers the state's federal railroad-highway grade crossing safety programs and provides technical expertise on railroad issues to other state agencies, local communities and companies located in Ohio.

I am writing to provide my conditional support to the recently announced proposed acquisition of RailAmerica, Inc. by Genesee & Wyoming Inc. (G&W) for the following reasons.

The G&W is an established shortline railroad operator with existing operations in Ohio. The ORDC has a very good relationship with G&W affiliates here in Ohio. The G&W, through its affiliate, the Columbus and Ohio River Railroad, has one of the longest and most successful rail related public-private partnerships in Ohio with the lease of the 131-mile, state-owned Panhandle Rail Line. This partnership has provided the ORDC with extraordinary interaction with the G&W at both the local and corporate levels. All of that interaction has been positive. It is also reassuring that this acquisition is a strategic acquisition by another railroad rather than a financially driven acquisition by a non-railroad entity.

Railroads play a critical role in the economic well-being of the State of Ohio. A strong rail infrastructure provides Ohio companies cost competitive options for moving goods and materials that are necessary for a strong economy. Since this is an end to end acquisition in Ohio, there does not appear to be any loss of competitive access to current and prospective shippers on either RailAmerica or G&W lines.

Given the magnitude of this acquisition, I realize that there are a great number of details that need to be considered. The ORDC looks forward to working with the G&W so that it can provide more formal support for this acquisition at its next regularly scheduled meeting in September.



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For these reasons, I conditionally support this proposal and respectfully request expedited review and approval by the Surface Transportation Board.

I, Matthew R. Dietrich, declare under penalty of perjury, under the laws of the United States, that the foregoing is true and correct. Further, I certify that I am qualified and authorized to file this verified statement.

Cordially,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Matthew R. Dietrich", written in a cursive style.

Matthew R. Dietrich
Executive Director
Ohio Rail Development Commission
July 31, 2012